

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1940.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Bingley Urban District Council.**

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of my Department for the year 1940. I am indebted to the Chief Sanitary Inspector for providing the data in the second part of the report. I should like to express my thanks to the staff of the Health Department and voluntary helpers at the Clinics for their assistance during the past year. I wish also to thank the Health Committee for their appreciation of the greater load that has been thrown upon the Department as a result of the War.

Because of the War the Ministry of Health, in circular 2067, has suggested that we should confine the Report to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year.

It is my hope that this year we may obtain some alleviation of overcrowded conditions in the offices, and better clinic premises for the Ante Natal Clinic, where the premises are not intruded upon by other Departments.

The Government Evacuation Scheme has created additional problems with regard to overcrowding and particularly with regard to the spread of infectious skin diseases. The shortage of staff of Sanitary Inspectors has prevented us from maintaining as close a watch on the billeting as I should have liked.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A. J. M. FINDLATER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	11,379
Population (Census 1931)	20,533
Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population, 1940	21,230
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books	Est.	7,025
Rateable Value	Est.	£140,851
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£538

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births,

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	258	138	120
Illegitimate	12	5	7

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident populat'n, 12.38

Stillbirths 14 10 4

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 49.6

Deaths 293 147 146

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident populat'n, 13.8

Deaths from puerperal causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)
Puerperal Sepsis ... 0	0	
Other puerperal causes 1	3.52	
Total 1	3.52	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births 48

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 46

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 83

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 11

„ Measles (all ages) 0

„ Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ... 0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1940.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0
Measles	0
Scarlet Fever	0
Whooping Cough	0
Diphtheria	1
Influenza	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	0
Diarrhoea etc. (under 2)	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	10
Other Tuberculous Disease	1
Syphilis	2
Cancer, malignant disease	47
Diabetes	5
Intracran: vascular lesions	30
Heart Disease	84
Other circulatory diseases	1
Bronchitis	19
Pneumonia (all forms)	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	6

Peptic Ulcer	4
Appendicitis	0
Other digestive diseases	6
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	12
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	11
Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other puerperal Causes	1
Road Traffic	3
Suicide	7
Other Violence	10
All other causes	26

293

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by the Health Visitors in their respective districts.

	Bingley and District	Wilsden and Harden	Cullingworth	Total
First visits to infants under 1 year old?	165	45	13	223
All visits to infants under 1 year old	738	270	78	1086
Visits to children aged 1 to 5 years	890	321	320	1531
Visits to expectant mothers ...	19	—	16	35

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(1) (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens is undertaken by the West Riding County Council. In cases of great emergency, Diphtheria swabs are bacteriologically examined at the Bradford Royal Infirmary. Arrangements for transport and payment are made by this Authority. Chemical analysis of water is carried out by the County Analyst.

(b) AMBULANCE
FACILITIES.

Infectious Cases.

The same as in 1939.

Non-Infectious Cases.

The same as in 1939.

(c) NURSING IN THE
HOME.

The same as in 1939.

(d) TREATMENT
CENTRES AND
CLINICS.

The same as in 1939.

(c) HOSPITALS.

General Hospital.

The same as in 1939.

Ear, Nose and Throat.

The same as in 1939.

Fever Hospital.

The same as in 1939.

Smallpox Hospital.

The same as in 1939.

Maternity Hospital.

The same as in 1939.

Children's Hospital.

The same as in 1939.

(2) HEALTH VISITORS.

The same as in 1939.

(3) CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The number of foster children upon the Register at the end of the year was 2. Copies of the requirements under the Public Health Act, 1936, in relation to Child Life Protection are posted in public buildings.

(4) ULTRA VIOLET RAY & ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.

The same as in 1939.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

The number of midwives practising in the area is five. Three of these are in private practice.

During 1940, 284 births have been notified to this Authority; of these 122 took place at the Shipley and Bingley Maternity Home.

There is an arrangement whereby necessitous patients developing obstetrical difficulties can have a consultant's opinion either at home or by appointment with the consultant. The fees are paid by the Council. Mr. Rawson, who is also attached to the Maternity Home, acts in this capacity.

A scheme for assistance to necessitous expectant mothers towards the cost of Dental Treatment is in operation

in the area. The question of provision of dentures is still before the Council.

Investigation of maternal deaths is undertaken by the County Medical Officer. If hospital treatment is required for puerperal cases, they are admitted to Morton Banks Isolation Hospital.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

This Clinic shewed an attendance of 74 in 1940. Post natal cases are also encouraged to attend for examination.

REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

and

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC CLEANSING

for the year ended 31st December, 1940.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Bingley Urban District Council.**

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of my Department during the past year.

One's chief impression of the year is that of being forced to leave undone many things which should have been done in order to carry on with urgent new work. With the enlistment of Mr. Skirrow in the R.A.M.C. only one Additional Inspector is left. While there has been some saving of time previously spent on Meat Inspection, additional duties dealing with Decontamination of Food Stuffs, Shelter Inspection, Visiting of Evacuees, Collaboration with the Military Authorities, Food Control Enforcement etc. more than take up the time saved.

The town earned some fame during the year for having one of the best salvage records in the Country and many deputations were appointed to investigate our methods. The total value of Salvage returned was £3,451.

A scheme for dealing with Gas Contaminated Food Stuffs was completed and the treatment squad includes volunteers from the various food trades.

I must record my appreciation of the support received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee. I am greatly indebted to my office staff for their loyal assistance and would also thank the workmen for their great help in making our Salvage Scheme so successful.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) *Water.*

During the year a chlorination outfit was provided to the Low Level Reservoir and the Cottingley supply was not in use.

25 bacteriological and 4 chemical examinations were made of both public and private supplies.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

There were no alterations or extensions in connection with sewerage during the year.

2. *Rivers and Streams.*

Action to check pollution was taken in several cases.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation.*

During the year 22 waste water closets were converted into pedestal closets. The scheme for entire conversion of waste water closets has been suspended for the period of hostilities, leaving 432 conversions still to do. 6 additional water closets were constructed during the year and 5 pail and 3 privy midden closets were abolished. The work of ashpit conversion continued during the year and 42 of these receptacles were replaced with 88 dustbins. The following table gives the number of each type of closet and ash receptacle remaining at the end of the year.

**NO. AND TYPES OF CLOSET ACCOMMODATION ETC.
IN THE DISTRICT, DECEMBER 31st, 1940.**

Division	Water Closets	Trough Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pail Closets	Privy Midden Closets	Ash Places	Dustbins
Bingley	3353	36	360	22	1	518	2206
Cottingley	597	0	8	6	0	14	544
Harden	364	0	2	17	0	0	304
Crossflats	758	5	10	1	0	50	516
Mickle'wte	160	0	2	15	0	9	45
Culling'th	399	0	5	30	25	25	430
Gilstead	263	0	0	1	1	1	213
Eldwick	230	0	0	44	21	0	337
Wilsden	771	0	4	32	28	34	544
Totals ...	6895	41	391	168	76	651	5139

Drainage.

During the year 72 new drains were tested, generally by means of the water test. 69 were approved and 3 disapproved. 76 old drains were examined and of these 18 were found to be in a defective condition.

(ii) *Public Cleansing.*

Your Inspector is responsible for the whole of the Public Cleansing services in the Bingley area, and the report of these services covers the year ending 31st March, 1941.

Street Cleansing was considerably disorganised during the early part of the year owing to heavy snowfalls, and the removal of ash and grit necessitated considerable enlargement of staff. As regards the collection and disposal of house refuse, the most important matter to be reported on is that of salvage of waste materials. Bingley is, perhaps,

unique in the fact that salvage was carried on for many years before the outbreak of hostilities although the district does not possess a mechanical separation plant. As a result of this work Bingley residents are particularly salvage conscious and the returns which brought in £3,451 indicate their splendid collaboration with the Cleansing Department. The following is the tonnage of materials collected during the year.

Waste Paper	307 tons	Textiles	17½ tons
Black Scrap	340 tons	Bottles	10 tons
Baled Tins	79½ tons	Cullet	12½ tons
Aluminium	11½ cwts.	Jars	5½ tons
Copper	11¾ cwts.	Manure	12 tons
Brass	3½ tons	Kitchen Waste	43¾ tons
Zinc	2 cwts.	Bones	5 tons
Lead	14 cwts.	Miscellaneous	4½ tons
Other Non Ferrous Metals	1 cwt.	Total Tonnage,	842¾ tons.

Included in the above return are 280 tons of scrap metal from the Highways Dept. valued at £1,631, and 2 tons from the Water Dept. valued at £9.

A number of Local Authorities sent deputations to inspect the salvage methods of the district and your Inspector was appointed as Assistant Honorary District Adviser to the Salvage Dept. of the Ministry of Supply.

During its sixth year, the Gully Emptier continued to give most satisfactory service. In addition to its normal work the machine is frequently used for the cleansing of cesspools, wells, and the destruction of weeds.

The Cleansing Dept. comprises 36 men and this number is augmented as found to be necessary. The following wage increase was made during the year.

July, 1940 ½d. per hour.

The equipment comprises two mechanical vehicles, 4 horses and carts, 1 500 gall. capacity Gully Emptier and 7 Street Orderly trucks.

Public Conveniences.

There are 48 public conveniences in the district and these are cleansed by the street orderlies, in most cases daily.

Public Mortuary.

The new mortuary came into use during the year.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

A tabulated statement of the area will be found on page 11. This covers Offensive Trades, Factories, Common Lodging Houses, Canal Boats, etc.

(iv) *Shops and Offices.*

The survey of shops and offices as regards sanitary accommodation had to be discontinued during the year. 14 inspections were made in connection with Sunday Closing and Evening Closure and 4 contraventions were dealt with.

(v) *Camping Sites.*

Three principal sites were used for camping purposes during 1940, and these are dealt with under the licensing conditions contained in the Public Health Act, 1936. The number of moveable dwellings is increasing, chiefly owing to the restriction of petrol, and the removal of caravans from East Coast districts.

(vi) *Smoke Abatement.*

52 smoke observations were made during the early part of the year, after which the work was discontinued at the request of the Ministry of Home Security. The Byelaw (which permits the emission of black smoke up to a maximum of two minutes in any half hour) was contravened on 5 occasions. Your Inspector was re-elected as a representative of the Urban District Councils on the Executive of the West Riding of Yorkshire Regional Smoke Abatement Committee. The normal work of this Committee has been held up, but consideration is being given to the place of smoke abatement in schemes of post war reconstruction.

(vii) *Eradication of Vermin.*

During the year 75 cases of Scabies were dealt with, apart from medical treatment. Clothing and bedding was disinfected in the Council's Steam Disinfector. In connection with bed bugs, every effort is being made to reduce the spread of infestation. The belongings of prospective tenants of Council Houses are carefully inspected before being given a Council house. During the year, 5 Council houses and 14 privately owned houses were found to be infested. For freeing affected houses a heavy concentration of SO₂ was used, together with spraying with an insecticide—usually Zaldecide or Vermicine.

HOUSING.

Housing work was confined during the year to abatement of overcrowding and maintenance by means of essential repairs, and 480 inspections were made in this connection.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Supervision of milk production is a most important task, for the Bingley area is one of the largest milk producing districts of the West Riding. The cow population is about 2,000, housed in 98 dairy farms.

There are 41 producers of Accredited milk and 2 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk, and these figures indicate the remarkable high standard of milk production in this area.

The number of cowshed inspections made during the year, was 211, which was a reduction on the figure for the previous year. Nevertheless, most of the farmers managed to maintain fairly satisfactory conditions despite their added duties in connection with arable farming.

During the year, 117 samples of milk produced or sold in Bingley were submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination by the Methylene Blue Test. Of these 87 were found to be satisfactory.

Distribution of milk is carried out by 67 purveyors. Of these there are six distributors of Tuberculin Tested Milk and one of Pasteurised Milk.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

In the early part of the year the general slaughter of animals in Bingley ceased, apart from cases of emergency slaughter, or of pigs for home consumption. 18 of such carcasses were inspected and one carcase of a pig was condemned. 160 lbs. of beef affected with Bone Taint was returned to the Government Slaughterhouse. The total weight of meat condemned during the year was 403 lbs.

Owing to shortage of staff, it was not possible to proceed with the inspection of premises where food is prepared in connection with new powers contained in Sec. 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE.

Dwellinghouses.

	Inspections.	Re- Inspections.
Inspected and recorded under Housing Act, 1936	2	102
Inspected under Public Health Acts ...	109	237
Inspected re overcrowding cases ...	9	21
Inspected re verminous condition ...	33	43
Houses disinfested	27	—
Houses disinfected	72	—
Infectious cases visited	70	—
Water Closets inspected	54	69
Privy Closets inspected	—	1
Pail Closets inspected	11	22
Ash Receptacles inspected	184	183
Houses of proposed tenants of Council		
Houses inspected re vermin	51	—
Council Houses inspected re vermin ...	50	—

Drainage.

Visits to work in progress	44	—
New drains approved after test	69	—
New drains disapproved after test	3	—
Old drains tested	20	—
Old drains found defective	18	—
Old drains inspected	76	—
Plumbing work inspected	1	—

Slaughterhouses.

Visits for meat inspection	40	—
Home killed carcasses inspected	18	—
Food Shops visited	—	1

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Cowsheds inspected	201	10
Dairies inspected	82	2
Interviews re Repairs to sheds	1	—

Bakehouses.

Number inspected	32	18
-------------------------	----	----

Offensive Trades.

Premises inspected	23	3
---------------------------	----	---

Smoke Emission.

Chimneys observed	52	—
Boiler Plants re Smoke Emission	12	—

Factories.

Sanitary accommodation of factories						
inspected	11	10
Factories inspected	—	1

Water Supply.

Visits to sources	2	1
Domestic services examined	3	—
Water samples obtained	28	—

Miscellaneous Inspections.

Common lodginghouses inspected	1	—
Canal Boats	5	—
Tents, vans and sheds	9	—
Piggeries	10	3
Ice Cream Manufactories	2	—
Public Conveniences	64	15
Salvage Depots	454	—
Rat infested premises	13	4
Interviews with owners and contractors	3	—
Preliminary Notices issued	184	—
Statutory Notices issued	24	—
Military Camps, Billets	12	—
First Aid Points	27	—
Camping Sites	11	—

W. E. COOKE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector, and
Supt. Public Cleansing Dept.